

BRANCHVILLE BOROUGH
MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting
December 6, 2023
7:00 P.M.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Branchville Borough Council has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof sent to the New Jersey Herald.

FLAG SALUTE

was led by Mayor Frato.

ROLL CALL

was conducted by Clerk Leissler. Present were Council Members Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Also present were Attorney Valenti, Jeff Lewis, Mike Clune, Darren Haggerty, Keith Whitehead, Tania Bansemer, Frank Sutton, Jim Ayers.

PROCLAMATION

None.

Approval of minutes

October 4, 2023

Motion to approve November 1, 2023, meeting minutes was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell. Roll Call Vote: Aye –Bathgate,

Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

CONSENT AGENDA

None

Public Session

Motion was made by Councilwoman Bathgate, seconded by Councilman Orr to enter public session. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Darren Haggerty stated that he is not happy with the idea of fleet cards to be used for gas by the road department and Branchville Hose Company.

Darren Haggerty was asked to investigate the phone and data plan that he would like for a road department cell phone and to report back. Motion will be tabled until January, 2024.

Jim Ayers asked the status of the Cerra property sale. Mr. Ayers also asked about the status of the Reservoir property sale. Mr. Ayers was asked to come back in March 2024 to discuss the Reservoir.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Bellis to approve the Borough send a letter to Mr. Bostonian about the shade trees that he removed on the Borough right of way. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Frank Sutton reviewed a list of proposed tree projects upcoming.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Bathgate, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell to close the public portion of the meeting. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilman Bellis, seconded by Councilwoman Bathgate to invite Chuck Smith to the next council meeting. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

A discussion took place requesting that Jean Perlee, website designer, meet with personnel to discuss her proposals about the website. Personnel would like to meet with Jean Perlee the week after Christmas.

Motion by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Orr to approve Elizabethtown Gas install at 37 Mill Street. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Ordinances

The following ordinances was offered for second reading by Councilwoman Bathgate, seconded by Councilman Doremus with all council members present voting affirmatively:

Tier A Ordinances.

These ordinances follow Tier A State of New Jersey model ordinances.

(Ordinances Attached)

Advertisement has been made according to law.

Councilman Doremus moved a public hearing be held on the ordinance, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell with all council members present voting affirmatively.

No comments.

On motion of Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell with all council members present voting affirmatively, the public hearing was closed.

Councilwoman Whitesell moved the ordinance be adopted on second reading. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bathgate. Roll Call Vote: Aye –

Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – Orr. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

The following ordinance was offered for second reading by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Van Stone with all council members present voting affirmatively:

BRANCHVILLE BOROUGH ORDINANCE # 16-2023

SALARY RANGE

Advertisement has been made according to law.

Councilman Van Stone moved a public hearing be held on the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Doremus with all council members present voting affirmatively.

No comments.

On motion of Councilwoman Bathgate, seconded by Councilman Bellis with all council members present voting affirmatively, the public hearing was closed.

Councilwoman Bathgate moved the ordinance be adopted on second reading. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bellis. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Resolutions

Resolution # 28-2023, 2024 Salary

Motion was made by Councilman Van Stone, seconded by Councilman Bellis to approve Resolution # 28-2023, 2024 Salary. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – Bathgate.

(Resolution follows minutes)

Motion was made by Councilman Van Stone, seconded by Councilman Bellis to enter public session. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Resolution # 29-2023 Authorizing the Transfer of Funds.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Bathgate, seconded by Councilman Doremus to approve Resolution # 29-2023 Authorizing the Transfer of Funds. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

(Resolution follows minutes)

Resolution #30 -2023 Transfer of 2022 Budget Appropriations

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Orr to approve Resolution #30 -2023 Transfer of 2022 Budget Appropriations. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

(Resolution follows minutes)

Resolution #31 -2023 Approval of items of Revenue and Appropriations

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell to approve Resolution #31 -2023 Approval of items of Revenue and Appropriations. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

(Resolution follows minutes)

COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

Motion was made by Councilman Van Stone, seconded by Councilman Orr to approve an animal control agreement between Branchville Borough and Newton. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Councilman Bellis moved that we send Sheriff Strada an email about bringing the radar trailer into the Borough. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bathgate. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Councilman Doremus made a motion to approve agreement with Gen Serve. It was seconded by Councilman Bellis. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Van Stone to authorize Christine Rolef to hold a meeting about the I Bank application with Dave Simmons, 2 Council and the mayor. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

The Branchville Borough Council will hold their reorganization meeting January 1, 2023 at 1 p.m. Their regular meeting will be same day at 1:30 p.m. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Bills

The following bills were presented for payment. On motion of Councilman Bellis, seconded by Councilman Van Stone they were ordered paid after being properly audited, paid out of correct account and subject to the availability of funds. The clerk was asked to check one voucher for JCP and L before it was paid. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

(List of bills follows minutes)

Adjournment

On motion of Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Van Stone, the meeting was adjourned. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Doremus, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Kathryn Leissler-CMR CTC RMC